

History of Robert McKnight

Robert McKnight, or uncle Bob as he was commonly known, was the son of Micheal and Lizzie McKnight. He was born in Glasgow, Scotland. 18 JUNE 1814

He was converted and baptized while quite young into the church by some of the first missionaries. He took up the work with great zeal and did much missionary work in the old country. He was a strong advocate for the doctrines of Mormonism. He was a local preacher in Scotland and went about with the missionaries preaching the gospel. His father turned him out when he became a member of the church, and he went to work in the coal pits.

A very educated botanist took him over the hills studying the many different kind of herbs and their uses. He taught Robert many valuable things concerning nature and her gifts to mankind. He became an herb doctor and for the rest of his life he helped and healed many by the use of them.

In Scotland he was known as the Colerea Doctor, for at one time there was a great epidemic of this dreaded disease raging in that country. Robert was called out of the mines to help fight against it. He went from house to house administering to the sick and doctoring with these herbs. He never feared the disease nor was he afflicted with it. Because of his faith and labor among the sick hundreds were completely healed and they christened him the Cholerea Doctor.

Robert was a large man, over six feet tall, with red hair and beard. He was powerfully built and was active, bright, assertive, and a good speaker. He was a man whom God had blessed with the gift of healing, and was often called out of the mines to come and administer to the sick.

He talked at the time of the strike (on the bridge over the river Ayre) and told of the hole in the dyke and compared it with the religions of the day.

Robert McKnight was married twice. He had five children by his first wife. In the year 1857 he left her because she would not join the church and come to America with the saints, and located in Pennsylvania, working in the mines.

He met Katherine Shields Murry in Pennsylvania and married her. At Winter Quarters he was made captain of emigration. His duty was to find tents and places for them to stay until teams met them from Utah.

He met Uncle William Lindsay and his mother's family. Took milk and scones to the ship. He also met Mary Montgomery and her family. People gathered there in companies to cross the plains. He placed them in their cabins or tents and in the trains in which they should cross the plains.

In 1862 he brought his family and came to Utah. They lived in Salt Lake City for two years and in 1864, they came to this valley. They lived with Margale Stevenson for several months then they moved into their own home which he had built. It was a one room log cabin where John Anderson's house now stands.

He doctored exclusively with herbs in this valley for many years. He had very good success and never charged. In the middle of NIGHT he was called to Woodland. Mrs. Hardman was very sick with measles and St. Vitis Dance. He walked up there and doctored her and she was healed. He had a great deal of success in curing

St. Vitis Dance. He used to walk to Provo and American Fork to doctor.

He was a very witty man and always had a clever answer for any question put to him. He was very bright and had he had the opportunity to have received an education it is beleived he would have attained great success as a doctor.

He always worked in the quartz mines in "Cotton Wood".

He was bright up to the time of his death, always allert. Just six months before he died he had his patrical blessing which was read at the meeting.

He died June 14 1900. the following is taken from the wasatch wave, at the time of his death.

Robert McKnight passed away at an early hour this morning. Deceased was 96 years of age, the oldest resident of the valley. He was up and out of doors but a short time before his death and came in and lay down on the bed. When his wife went in to call him about an hour later, he was dead. He came to this valley in with his family in 1864. He was an exemplary old gentleman and highly reppected by his friends and neighbors.

*From Hilton
L. Burch
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